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S E C R E T AMMAN 002513

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR UNDERSECRETARY BOLTON AND A/S BLOOMFIELD
FROM AMBASSADOR GNEHM

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/20/2012

TAGS: [KHDP](#) [PREL](#) [MASS](#) [JO](#)

SUBJECT: IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUED U.S. SUPPORT FOR JORDAN'S
DEMINEING PROGRAM

Classified By: Ambassador Edward Gnehm. Reasons 1.5 (b,d).

11. (C) We understand that the Department may be considering consolidating its NADR Humanitarian Demining programs and focusing on fewer countries in the coming fiscal years. If this is the case, we believe it is important for U.S. political and military interests in the region -- and in OEF -- that NADR funding for Jordan continue.

12. (S) King Abdullah has stuck his neck out for us on many occasions this past year. In the face of 20 months of deepening Israeli-Palestinian violence, he has maintained a policy of moderate, constructive engagement with both parties and with other regional players. His efforts have been crucial in building Arab support for the Saudi (and now Arab League) Peace Initiative. Perhaps most importantly, immediately after 9/11, the King was the strongest Arab voice speaking out against terror and he backed up his words with deeds. Closely coordinating with us, he sent a Jordanian army field hospital and a company of Jordanian deminers to Afghanistan to support OEF. He also dispatched Jordanian Special Forces to other locations in support of our global war on terrorism.

13. (C) The King made these decisions in the face of widespread and growing anti-American sentiment in the region. He showed himself to be a friend willing to risk the anger of many in the Arab world to take a firm stand along with us.

14. (C) Jordan's HD program, thanks to the United States' substantial support, is making steady progress. Over 80,000 mines have been pulled from the ground, the risks to Jordanians living near mined areas has been greatly reduced and hundreds of acres of scarce fertile land in the Jordan Valley have been returned to cultivation. This is a program that works and -- we would argue -- should merit continued support based on its own accomplishments.

15. (S) However, beyond that, we believe that a decision to alter our traditional support for Jordan's HD program would send a particularly bad signal at this time. First, one of Jordan's most visible contributions to OEF is its deminers. To reduce assistance to the very branch of the Jordanian Armed Forces (the Royal Corps of Engineers) that is standing with us in Afghanistan does not make political or military sense. Beyond that, and looking ahead to future possible objectives, we should think about what we would ask of Jordan during or after any potential U.S. action in Iraq. One very tangible way the Jordanians could assist us in a post-Saddam Iraq would be to help clear the land of mines and other ordnance. As we look to various scenarios that might take place, we should make sure that those who have helped us in the past and present, will have the resources they need to do so in the future.

16. (S) We recognize that NADR HD funds are already stretched very thin, and there are more worthy recipients than there are resources. That said, we strongly believe that -- given the King's and Jordan's demonstrated commitment to our shared values and joint endeavors -- every effort should be made to maintain our NADR HD support for Jordan at current levels for the next several fiscal years.
Gnehm